Office of the Mayor City & County of San Francisco



**Gavin Newsom** 

April 20, 2004

Mr. Samuel P. Schuchat Executive Officer Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway – Eleventh Floor Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

We are writing to express our support for the Yosemite Slough South Basin Watershed Restoration Project ("Watershed Project") in its efforts to seek additional resources to support open space conservation and a publicly accessible waterfront in this key sector of our city. Public access to San Francisco Bay in Bayview Hunters Point has been reduced over the years by industrial and commercial development. The prevalent industrial land uses have also contributed to environmental degradation that has seriously compromised the viability of available open space resources in the area.

In an effort to reverse this situation, the Watershed Project was initiated by a collaboration of leading Bay Area and San Francisco environmental organizations, including Arc Ecology, the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Alliance for a Clean Waterfront, Golden Gate Audubon Society and Clean Water Fund, as well as the University of San Francisco (collectively, "the Collaborative"). These groups are important community stakeholders and are active participants in our planning efforts in this sector. Further, Arc Ecology's involvement in the clean-up and conversion of Hunters Point Shipyard ("Shipyard") pre-dates most City and San Francisco Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") efforts.

We share a common interest with the Collaborative in identifying opportunities to reverse the current situation in Bayview Hunters Point and in providing for ecologically restored open space and more useable open space and recreation areas in certain locations, including the water's edge in the area encompassing South Basin and Yosemite Slough. Of prominence in this area is the Shipyard, which is designated as a Redevelopment Project Area. Agency staff and the Collaborative are now negotiating a Cooperative Agreement, which would outline a planning approach to be spearheaded by the Collaborative, resulting in a Conceptual Master Plan for creating a unique park amenity on Parcels E and F of the Shipyard. Under the terms of the proposed Cooperative Agreement, the Collaborative will work in partnership with the community, Agency and City throughout the process and will strive to reach consensus on the Master Plan.

We ask for the Coastal Conservancy's support of this project. Please do not hesitate to call us directly should you have any questions regarding this letter.

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Sincerely,

Sophie Maxwell

District 10 Supervisor

City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Marcia Rosen

**Executive Director** 

San Francisco Redevelopment Agency

Jesse Blout

Executive Director

Mayor's Office of Economic and Job Development

Jared Blumenfeld

Director

City of San Francisco Department of the Environment

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QAKLAND, CALIF.



Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair,
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100,
Environmental Oakland, CA 94612,

attn: Ms. Joan Cardellino.

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing on behalf of Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) to give our enthusiastic support to the proposed Hunters Point Shipyard Parcel E Park Conceptual Planning project before you. The proposed plan will give form to the Bayview Hunters Point community's vision for a shoreline park. It will define the current sketch of a recreation area at the site currently endorsed within the Shipyard's redevelopment plan. Most importantly, Arc Ecology, the collaborative lead for the project, has developed a process that has environmental justice as one of its core values. The planning process will involve the district in depth in the development of the conceptual plan, ensuring that its recommendations and vision will be in sync with the communities' desires and needs. As a partner during the CALFED-funded phase of this project, we can attest to the level of youth participation that Arc Ecology and the collaborative support for the planning process.

Literacy for Environmental Justice is a youth service organization located in the Bayview Hunters Point community. We provide free education programs in environmental justice, wetland ecology, and urban sustainability to K-12 students, and involve local youth in community issues through innovative paid internship programs. LEJ was a partner in the Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration Project (Phase One) of which Arc Ecology was a crucial part. Their knowledge of local environmental issues, and their commitment to public participation are qualities that greatly benefited our project and our youth interns.

It is critical that the Coastal Conservancy approve this proposal now. The transfer process for the Hunters Point Shipyard is beginning to move very quickly. Parcel A should be transferred from the Navy to San Francisco in October and the transfer of Parcel D is perhaps a year away. Both of these Parcels are contiguous with the proposed Parcel E Park site and without a Conceptual Plan to guide development activities, land use conflicts are likely to occur. Furthermore, the final decisions around the cleanup strategy for Parcel E will be made concurrently with the development of the proposed Conceptual Park Plan. As such, the process of designing and creating the conceptual plans will have a significant and positive impact on the remedial strategy chosen for Parcel E. There could be no better timing for the Conceptual Park Planning process than now.

Literacy for Environmental Justice urges the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this worthy grant.

Sincerely,

Dana Lanza, Executive Director

BAYVEIW HUNTERS POINT COMMUNITY ADVOCATES, INC Post Office Box 24582, San Francisco, CA 94124 phone: 415.648.6008

September 9, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair Costal Conservancy 1330 Broadway, Suite 1100 Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Ms. Joan Cardellino

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates (Advocates) urge you to approve and fund the Hunters Point Shipyard Parcel E Park conceptual Plan proposal. The Advocates is a community-based grass roots nonprofit environmental justice organization representing long-term residents of the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) community. Members of the Board of Directors have been living in BVHP their entire lives, some longer than 60 years. With this much history, we can say that this important proposal accurately articulates the need to craft a vision that has been a neighborhood objective since 1966.

During the 1960's, the Navy and the City of San Francisco completed the filling of the great wetlands on San Francisco's southeastern shoreline. Before the destruction of the last remnants of the original natural environment, community members bought fresh shrimp and fish from the South Basin fisher folk. The shoreline was our playground, where families went to picnic and enjoy the view of the Bay. With the fill, we lost access and all of those amenities. The proposed project is a means of seeing part of that lost environment renewed.

The plan will articulate alternatives for implementing the BVHP's community goals for the shoreline park. It will give definition and enable it to be designed simultaneously and integrated with the Open Space Plan now being devised for Parcel A on the Shipyard. And, as a partner with Arc Ecology we will insure that the planning process will honor the environmental justice concerns of our community. Together with the Watershed Council, organized by the Advocates, and our Yosemite Slough Collaborative partners, this community will be deeply involved in the Conceptual Plan.

Parts of the Shipyard will soon be transferred from the Navy to the City and this project will help keep the local and federal government's attention on our long sought objective of creating a shoreline park from Candlestick Point to the finger piers. It will help the Navy remember, while it plans for the cleanup of Parcel E, that the community's goal for this portion of the Shipyard is parklands available for the full range of uses associated the that activity. The timing of this proposal puts it at the center of the development of the Shipyard. Please help us make our dream a reality by funding this important effort.

Sincerely

Olin Webb

**Executive Director**